

Message Text

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51
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 CU-04 DRC-01

OPR-02 /155 W
----- 092582

R 141010Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8625
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3309

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, WA, SF
SUBJ: ENFORCED CALM IN NAMIBIA

REF: PRETORIA 3054

1. FSO'S O'NEILL AND PETTERSON WERE IN NAMIBIA SEPTEMBER 11-14. ALL REMAINS QUIET THERE, AS HARSH ACTIONS TAKEN BY SAG HAVE PROVED TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE. TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES REMAIN IN EFFECT IN OWAMBO. IN WINDHOEK SEPTEMBER 9, POLICE AND ARMY MOUNTED MASSIVE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE FUGITIVES. ALTHOUGH THIS EFFORT UNSUCCESSFUL, IT PROVIDED DEMONSTRATION OF AUTHORITIES' DETERMINATION TO SHOW THEY MEAN BUSINESS. LATER IN WEEK TWO YOUTH LEAGUE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADERS WERE ARRESTED NEAR BOTSWANA BORDER (PRETORIA 3279),

WHICH THEY EVENTUALLY HOPED TO CROSS.

2. NINE OF ELEVEN SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERS WHO MADE FIERY SPEECHES AT AUGUST 12 POLITICAL MEETING AT KATUTURA (PRETORIA 2836) HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED. ONE HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED, CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MOST OF OTHERS WILL BE CHARGED WITH INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL OF SWA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, A FEW MAY BE CHARGED UNDER TERMS OF SABOTAGE ACT. IF CONVICTED THEY WOULD FACE MINIMUM SENTENCE OF FIVE YEARS.

3. JOHANNES NANGUTUALA, JOHN OTTO, JIMMY AMPALA AND ANDREAS NUUKWAWO, LEADING OPPONENTS OF SAG-SUPPORTING OWAMBO GOVERNMENT WHO WERE ARRESTED IN MAY FOR HOLDING ILLEGAL MEETING AND WHOSE APPEAL AGAINST CHARGES WAS UPHELD BY SWA SUPREME COURT (PRETORIA 3119), HAVE BEEN CHARGED ANEW. THEY ARE FREE ON BAIL, BUT APPROXIMATELY 125 OTHER OVAMBOS ARE IN DETENTION IN OWAMBO. ABOUT 25 WERE DETAINED DURING EARLY PHASE OF POLITICAL UNREST IN OWAMBO AND AN ESTIMATED 100 ARRESTED IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING SAG'S DECISION USE FORCE TO PUT AN END TO ALL FORMS OF DISSENT IN THE HOMELAND. APPARENTLY MANY OF DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD UNDER PROVISIONS OF PROCLAMATION R17, EMERGENCY REGULATION IN OWAMBO WHICH EMPOWERS POLICE TO ARREST AND DETAIN ANYONE FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD. PERSONS SO DETAINED ARE HELD INCOMMUNICADO AND NEED NOT BE CHARGED OR BROUGHT TO COURT.

4. IN ADDITION TO USE OF POLICE AND MILITARY TO END DEMONSTRATIONS AND ARREST DISSIDENTS, SWA AUTHORITIES HAVE ANOTHER WEAPON TO QUASH HIGHLY ACTIVE AND VOCAL OPPONENTS. DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS, SECONDARY STUDENTS IN OWAMBO AND KATUTURA HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SAG AND OWAMBO GOVERNMENT. HUNDREDS HAVE BEEN EXPelled AND MANY WILL NOT BE RE-ADMITTED TO THEIR SCHOOLS. FOR EXAMPLES, ABOUT 250 OF TOTAL 500 STUDENTS AT AUGUSTINEUM, KATUTURA'S SHOWPLACE SECONDARY SCHOOL, HAVE BEEN EXPelled AND ONLY 14 PERMITTED RETURN. REPORTEDLY GOVERNMENT HAS BLACK-LISTED THEM FROM OTHER SCHOOLS AND WITH BUSINESS CONCERS WHICH MIGHT EMPLOY THEM.

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5. GOVERNMENT'S STERN MEASURES HAVE HAD INTENDED EFFECT. AS ONE SOURCE PUT IT, BLACKS ARE "KEEPING THEIR HEADS DOWN AND ONLY A FOOL WOULD RISK ANYTHING NOW." DIRK MUDGE, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR FOR SWA AND LEADER OF NATIONAL PARTY IN SWA ASSEMBLY, AND BILLY MARAIS, PRIME MINISTER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN SWA, TOLD FSO'S THAT THERE NOW A GROWING SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NON-WHITES AND WHITES IN TERRITORY. BUT BISHOP AUALA, PRESIDENT OF UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND

SPIRITUAL LEADER OF MAJORITY OF OWAMBOS, COMMENTED PRIVATELY
THAT HIS PEOPLE'S BITTERNESS AND DISTRUST OF WHITES IS
INCREASING. OF THE TWO CONFLICTING OPINIONS, AUALA'S CERTAINLY
SEEMS THE MORE VALID. HOWEVER, DESPITE GROWING ANTAGONISM
BETWEEN THE RACES, SAG HAS SUCCEEDED IN IMPOSING ITS BRAND
OF LAW AND ORDER, AND THROUGH INTIMIDATION, USE OF FORCE AND
PERSUASION WILL KEEP LID ON UNREST IN NAMIBIA.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRETOR03309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SMITH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730934/aaaaaypn.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PRETORIA 3054
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENFORCED CALM IN NAMIBIA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, WA, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005